



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**DECEMBER 16, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OPERATION ICE STORM**  
**TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS LIVING IN NEOSHO**  
**INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexican nationals living in Neosho, Mo., were indicted by a federal grand jury today for their role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Today's indictment, Graves said, is the result of Operation Ice Storm, an investigation that focused on the distribution of multi-kilograms of methamphetamine throughout southwest Missouri.

**Luis Alfonso Salinas-Rodriguez**, 30, and **Sergio Sanchez-Ortega**, 36, both Mexican nationals living in Neosho, Mo., were indicted by a federal grand jury for their role in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Salinas-Rodriguez** and **Sanchez-Ortega** conspired to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 21, 2004, and Dec. 3, 2004, in Newton County, Mo.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Salinas-Rodriguez** distributed methamphetamine on Oct. 21 and 27, 2004, respectively, in Newton County.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Salinas-Rodriguez** and **Sanchez-Ortega**, aiding and abetting each other, distributed methamphetamine on Nov. 8, 2004, in Newton County.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Salinas-Rodriguez** distributed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on Nov. 30, 2004, in Newton County.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Salinas-Rodriguez** and **Sanchez-Ortega**, aiding and abetting each other, distributed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on Dec. 3, 2004, in Newton County.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn McKee. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Newton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Jasper County, Mo., Drug Task Force, and the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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